



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

# COUNCIL COURIER

Space Coast Honors Non-Profit of the Year 2024

APRIL 2025



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



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Assisting Hands Home Care has taken the WWII trunk to Melbourne Terrace.

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On a picture perfect Florida "Winter Day", almost 300 JROTC cadets from 11 High Schools in three counties came to the Veterans Memorial Center Park.

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BVMC was blessed to have Church of Viera's MPACT Ministries work to spruce up, trim and improve landscape and eaves/windows at the center, the plaza and the west side of the park.

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## "242nd Anniversary of Special Naval Battle of Florida Coast"

*SAR Chapters from three states, 10 Daughters of the American Revolution and the Central Florida Children of the American Revolution attended.*

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The Courier is a monthly publication prepared and distributed in both print and electronic forms by the VMC/BVC. It reports the ongoing projects by the many committees and departments.

Articles for submission and request for advertisement must be sent to the address listed below. The deadline is the 25th of each month.

Please send submissions to:  
brevardvmc@gmail.com

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## Our Organization

As of 20 December 2024:

[List of Board 2024-2025](#)

As of 30 October 2024:

[BVMC Committee Departments 2024-2025](#)

As of 28 July 2024:

[BVC VMC Org Chart 2024-2025](#)


## Mission Statement

**Brevard Veterans Council:** The Brevard Veterans Council (BVC) is a 501(c)19 veterans organization.

BVC's mission is to work in conjunction with area veterans, local government, and other veterans' organizations to support and promote the interests and welfare of Brevard County veterans and their families.

**Veterans Memorial Center:** The Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. VMC's mission is to maintain and operate a premier facility to educate the public and provide a vibrant memorial to the service and sacrifice of all military veterans and their families through a museum, memorial plaza, library, and veterans park.

**Brevard Veterans Council, Inc. & Veterans Memorial Center, Inc.**  
400 South Sykes Creek Parkway  
Merritt Island, FL 32952-3547  
Office 321-453-1776  
DAV Service Office 321-452-1774



# VMC President's Report

**LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN (Ret)**

March has been a busy month for the VMC with an up tick of visitors in the museum due to Spring Break and events such as the Last Naval Battle with great support from NOTU. March was also the 50th anniversary of the official end of the Vietnam War and was recognized in several activities throughout the county. I attended an interesting event in Titusville on March 21st, also known as 3-2-1 Day. A man, Ozzie Osband, aka Rocket Hobo, who worked at the American Space Museum, was instrumental in getting the 321 area code for Brevard County in 1998. The city of Titusville celebrates 3/21 annually to honor Ozzie, who passed away last year. The VMC supported the event with ten tables and fifty folding chairs.



Dean and Donn giving an Amphitheater update at a Community Action of Merritt Island (CAMI) fundraiser on 25 March.

This past weekend, we had a group of volunteers from the Church of Viera do a cleanup of the park and VMC building. I have worked/supported other volunteers for workdays, but these guys were hands down the best and hardest workers we have had. Impact Ministries of the Church of Viera is hosting five-time Grammy nominee Mathew West at the King Center on Saturday, May 31 for an event called The Grace Experience. Posters are in several locations around the center.

April is a special month for me, as it is the 50th anniversary of my 29th birthday, and it just happens to be on Easter Sunday this year. Make sure you take a look at the calendar in the Courier noting other events in April. As a board member of the Propeller Club, I want to push the April 11 Shrimpfest which is held at Terminal Five Port Canaveral. The event is a fundraiser for the Propeller Club who supports the Maritime industry, Merchant Marines, the HELM program at Rockledge High School, the Sea Cadets and offers scholarships for students going into the Maritime industry.

We had a great turnout for Ted Schmid's service at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. Ted was a great contributor to the VMC and the Veterans community. May he rest in peace.

The Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce has rebranded themselves as Accelerate Brevard: Chamber of Innovation. They have sold their building and have moved to the Truist Bank building in front of the Mall, not the location I reported last month. If you have not visited Visit Cocoa Beach on your phone, make sure you check it out as it has a lot of information on the Cocoa Beach area supporting the tourist industry. Please take a look at the two flyers in the Courier. One on the Propeller Club's 2025 Shrimpfest on April 11 at Cruise Terminal 5 and Visit Cocoa Beach's Spring into Action, saving lives on the shore.

Thanks to all our volunteers for your support and sacrifices to keep the VMC running smoothly.

God bless our fallen heroes, MIAs, and POWs and God bless our armed forces.

Dean  
Go Navy beat Army!

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## Chaplain's Corner

**Chaplain Chip Hanson**  
USMC (Fmr)

November 1, 1955 – April 30, 1975

April 30 marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. I served as a combat Marine from 1967 to 1969. This article is dedicated to my brothers who never came home, those who returned to a nation that turned its back on us, and those who later took their own lives.

The U.S. has fought in many conflicts. WWII (1941–1945) was a decisive victory, followed by the rebuilding of Japan and Germany into industrial powers. In the early 1950s, we fought in Korea—the “Forgotten War.” With U.S. help, South Korea became a strong, industrialized nation.

In the 1960s, we went to war in Vietnam—but this time, we left before completing our mission. Unlike Japan, Germany, and South Korea, Vietnam’s post-war development never reached the same level. The difference? In WWII and Korea, we finished the job. In Vietnam, we were not allowed to.

### A Brief History of the Vietnam War

In 1955, President Eisenhower pledged support to South Vietnam. U.S. military and CIA assistance helped South Vietnam crack down on communist sympathizers. President Kennedy, guided by the “domino theory,” increased aid but avoided large-scale military involvement. By 1962, U.S. troop presence reached 9,000.

Under President Johnson, Cold War fears and regional strategy prompted deeper involvement. After attacks on the USS Maddox and Turner Joy in the Gulf of Tonkin, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, granting Johnson broad war powers.

1965: Operation Rolling Thunder, a sustained bombing campaign, began in response to Viet Cong attacks. Soon after, the first U.S. ground troops arrived, initially to defend air bases—but quickly became engaged in combat.

1968:

The Battle of Khe Sanh saw U.S. Marines withstand a 77-day siege.

The Tet Offensive shocked the American public, with coordinated attacks on over 100 cities. Although U.S. forces repelled the offensive, it marked a turning point and triggered the gradual withdrawal.

The Battle for Hue City forced U.S. Marines into intense urban combat, a stark contrast to previous jungle warfare.

1969: Operation Menu, a covert bombing campaign in

Cambodia, began with B-52 bombers dropping 108,823 tons of ordnance.

1973: The U.S., North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and the Viet Cong signed the Paris Peace Accords, agreeing to a cease-fire and withdrawal of U.S. forces. In return, North Vietnam released U.S. POWs. The DMZ at the 17th Parallel remained in place, with reunification to come by peaceful means.

1975:

The last U.S. combat troops departed, leaving behind 7,000 Defense Department civilians.

On April 29–30, Operation Frequent Wind evacuated over 7,000 Americans and South Vietnamese as Saigon fell.

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” — Isaiah 40:31

“Now we have a problem in trying to make our power credible, and Vietnam looks like the place.” — President John F. Kennedy, June 1961

GOD BLESS AMERICA  
Chaplain Chip Hanson

**2025 SHRIMPFEAST**

**WHEN:** Friday, April 11, 2025 - 6-10pm  
**WHERE:** Port Canaveral Cruise Terminal 5  
 9245 Charles M Rowland Drive, Cape Canaveral

**COST:** \$50 Early Bird Discount per person by March 17  
 \$60 per person after March 17

*Tickets Must Be Purchased In Advance - NO Door Sales*

**Have Fun & Support Our Maritime Education Programs**

Best Hawaiian Shirt Contest | Wild Ocean | Tropical Dress Encouraged

**FEATURING: MANGO BROTHERS BAND**

6:00pm Cocktails  
 6:30pm Shrimp Dinner Begins  
 7:30pm Door Prizes - Live Auction - Dancing

Live Auction | Silent Auction

propellerclubcanaveral@gmail.com  
 321-698-5296  
 www.spacecoastshrimpeast.com



## Secretary's Report

**Kristi Blanchard**  
USA (Fmr)

March was a busy and fruitful month. As the IT lead, and with the blessing of the BVMC Board of Directors, we completed the installation of the building video cameras and the additional ethernet ports for our Windows 11 computers and network with help from Alliance Cyber Gives. We moved to Spectrum last August, but as the dust settles, we cut our Internet bill by two thirds. We also installed a new printer in the MOD office after the old one ceased working. The investment has modernized our operations and means we can look forward to many years of secure, uninterrupted service long into the future.

As a member of the ExComm, I've been coordinating the updates to the lobby too. It's another investment being made to wow our visitors when they first enter the building. Based on an original design from Vic Rogers, we've completed the first phase that includes painting, a mural, new chairs, new frames, organizing information, and hanging the pictures. Next up is completing a section to honor our history and bring in digital signage. I'd like to thank Vic, Dean Schaaf, Bill Pollock, Ed Pingston, Bob Noble, Doug Bisset, and Jim Perotti for all of their help. Thanks also to BJ McGuire (and the DAV123 team) for paying for ½ of the new chairs and making a new sign.

I sent another 24 mobile phones to Cell Phones for Soldiers a couple of weeks ago, so keep them coming. The phones are repurposed or recycled to help active-duty soldiers get phones. On 25 March, Paul Julian and I set out the Vietnam Trunk and some snacks at the Viera VA Clinic to celebrate the men and women who served in Vietnam and are being honored in the US on the National Vietnam War Veterans Day, 29 March. We had some memorable reactions to the equipment and enjoyed meeting everyone. Thanks to Marizza too (see picture), and we look forward to doing it again.

Have a great April everyone!



VMC Secretary Kristi Blanchard, Viera VA's Marizza Moreno-Benton and BVC BOD Paul Julian



Mobile Phones with Secretary Report

**The Women Veterans Call Center is your guide to VA.**

**Call, Text, or Chat Online**  
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[womenshealth.va.gov](https://womenshealth.va.gov)

**VA** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

**Kay Rathke, U.S. Army (Retired) Master Sgt & Women Veterans Call Center Representative**





## VMC Librarian Report

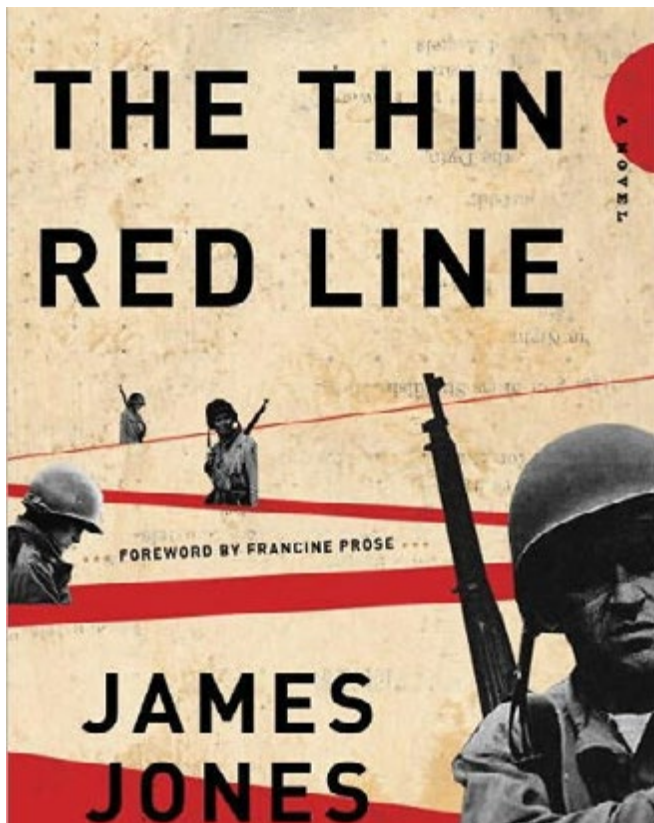
**Hank Rhodes**  
USN (Fmr)

In February 2025 (the most recent month for which data is available), the library hosted 178 visitors and issued 23 items (books or DVDs).

We received several large book collections as donations, and are in the process of assessing and cataloging what we will incorporate into the collection. The majority of these books pertain to the Vietnam War.

Our team conducted and processed one VHP interview with USMC veteran Norbert O'Hara. He was a pioneer in developing the Marines' helicopter capabilities. Among his other achievements, he was a professor, an explorer in Antarctica, and Mayor of Indialantic in the 1980s. This fascinating video is accessible from the BVMC website.

Finally, we have several interesting presentations scheduled, including "Truths and Myths About the Vietnam War" (Mar 25) and "The Treblinka Death Camp & Its Heroes" (Apr 29).



## Book Report: The Thin Red Line by James Jones

### Book Report by H.V. Rhodes

James Jones was the only American serviceman who witnessed the Pearl Harbor attack and went on to a literary career. He is best known as the author of the novel *From Here to Eternity*, which depicts peacetime Army life in Hawaii, the attack itself, and concludes with America's sudden entry into World War II.

Set during the later phase of the Guadalcanal campaign, *The Thin Red Line* deals with the members of an Army Infantry company from their landing in the middle of the battle, through the struggle to secure the strategic island, and eventual victory. Initially, the reader is confronted with a large number of not especially well-defined characters. The enlisted soldiers of Charlie Company gradually emerge as individuals in the course of the fighting and dying. The dialog reflects the tremendous stress of the situation with copious profanity, sexism and the casual racism of the 1940s. James Jones portrays Army officers mostly as self-serving sycophants or as bumbling incompetents. He depicts some as both.

James Jones served with the 25th Infantry Division on Guadalcanal during the Army phase (December 1942-January 1943) of this critical campaign, until he sustained a wound that resulted in his evacuation and eventual discharge, achieving the grade of Corporal. It can be safely assumed that this novel depicts the author's view of real-world events, although he acknowledges at the conclusion that another witness might tell a somewhat different story.

As one example of the author's technique, the place-names he uses to describe the battles are fictional equivalents of recognizable localities that figured prominently in the progress of the campaign, which is generally regarded as the turning point of the Pacific War.

Beyond the conflict and chronicle of casualties, the author explores deeper themes suggested by the title: The narrow boundary between life and death, between sanity and madness, between courage and cowardness. He discusses the causes and symptoms of what we now call Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). There are redemption stories that echo *The Red Badge of Courage*.

*The Thin Red Line* demands a lot from the reader but provides insight into the arena of combat that relatively few people experience first-hand in modern America. *The Thin Red Line* is located in the BVMC Library as Fic-Jones-01.



**"I Was There"**

**"Vietnam "Reality Tour"**

***-In Country Experience -- Life's Journey-***

**Vietnam War Exhibit & Education Center**

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**Call for Appointment: 321-212-9726**



## Dean Schaaf and Six Others Receive Patriot Awards

By Donn Weaver



With more than 250 in attendance, the Honor America Foundation and Liberty Bell Museum Board presented seven Patriot Awards on 27 Feb at the Grand Manor in Melbourne. Sheriff Wayne Ivey was the MC, and Liberty Bell Museum Board President Jay Freeland guided the presentations.

The oldest recipient who shall not be named in this space, is closing in on 80. The youngest is a senior at Merritt Island HS and just turned 18. It was a great group of seven recognized for truly exceptional volunteer service to the Space Coast community:

- John Casey (Businessman and Philanthropist)
- Brian Jensen (SAR and Veterans Groups)
- Mark Pieloch (Muscle Car Museum/Philanthropist)
- Dean Schaaf (VMC Pres and many Vet Groups)
- Rose Yeary (American Legion for decades)
- Joel Freeland (MIHS Grad; Eagle Scout; ROTC College)
- Alex Gregoire (MIHS Senior; Full ROTC Scholarship)

As Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) President as well as MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter Board Member and many more organizations, Dean's resume is amazing — 27 years in the US Navy enlisted and commissioned, 21 years NASA (Ret) and two decades of volunteer service often over 40 hours per week. Brian Jensen, also a VMC member and senior leader of the Brevard Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution has combined volunteer service for SAR in Brevard.

## Assisting Hands shares the VMC Museum's Traveling Trunks

By Susan Houts

Assisting Hands Home Care has taken the WWII trunk to Melbourne Terrace in partnership with Vitas, and the Vietnam War Trunk to Bedrock, Viera Health and Rehab, Life Care Center of Melbourne, and Viera Del Mar in partnership with St. Francis Reflections Lifestage Care. The residents of these communities thoroughly enjoyed the presentation, and was thrilled to share these experiences with the BVC-VMC General Membership on 13 March.





# AUSA Space Coast Chapter Updates



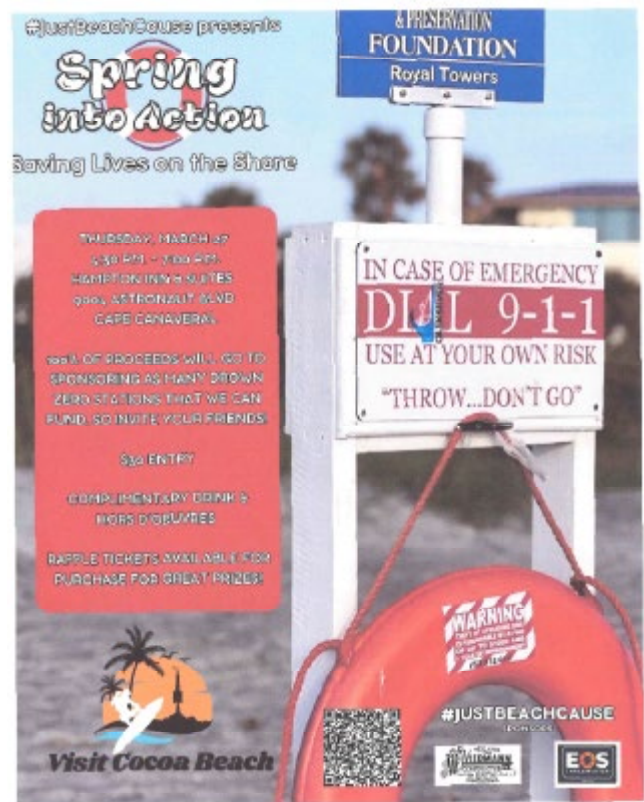
**By Vincent (Kip) Mathias**  
President, Space Coast  
Chapter of AUSA

The Space Coast Chapter of AUSA is planning for an extraordinary spring and summer.

Members of our Chapter will be presenting certificates at several of the area high school's JROTC award ceremonies. It is important to celebrate these students' commitments to the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC).

We're also looking forward to the May 15th Enlistment Ceremony! The Brevard County VMC had many successful ceremonies in the past to honor the area's citizens enlisting in the military. Our own Sergeant Joshua L. Arocho, Rockledge Army Recruiting Station, who has provided much of his time attending AUSA-SC meetings, has served as a catalyst in getting the Brevard Public Schools to FORMALLY endorse and host this ceremony. They believe we can get 200+ enlistees to take part in this formal ceremony celebrating the Space Coast (Not just Brevard County) enlistees' initiative to join the military. This will include recruits from several of the Space Coast and central Florida High Schools, charter schools, home-schooled, and others who are enlisting after graduation. There will be fliers and further information coming out very shortly. There will be static display military vehicles, fireworks, a ceremonial wearing in off all swearing in of these enlistees. The VMC, the Brevard School Board, and our AUSA Space Coast Chapter are funding the very first Challenge Coin these amazing young people will receive during their time in the military. This coin will underscore their selfless choice to join the military. We expect to see hundreds of veterans and parents to attend this first and hopefully a flyover of some sort to recognize the enlistees' decisions. **BOTTOMLINE:** Their decision to join the military is to be celebrated and we ask for the community's support to show them that their decision to serve is appreciated.

Due to national level funding priority changes, we are refocusing our celebration of the US Army's 250th Birthday. On July 9th we are celebrating the Army's 250th Birthday with an Army guest speaker at the Greater Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce Monthly Luncheon at the Azan Shriners Center 1592 W Eau Gallie Blvd. Tickets are available at [www.greaterpalmbaychamber.com](http://www.greaterpalmbaychamber.com). We hope to have another event and still working the plans – so keep looking for next month's entry! Were also hoping to team with the Space Force Association to celebrate the first launch on Cape Canaveral 75 years ago, which was an Army Missile Agency launch. We hope to have more details soon.




## Bake Sale

### Wednesday, April 9

at Brevard Veterans Center  
400 South Sykes Creek Parkway  
Merritt Island  
Sponsored by the  
**American Legion Auxiliary,**  
Unit 344, Merritt Island

**From 8:30-11:30 am**

## Cakes, Pies, Cookies & more!



## Park and Plaza Report

### By Donn Weaver

April saw great progress on all fronts in the Park and Plaza, especially with the completion of the cement foundations of the amphitheater and concessions building at Park. We also hosted three big events in the western part of the park including a major JROTC Drill meet with 10 local high schools and nearly 300 cadets which you can read about in the May Courier.

**BRICKS** — 11 more bricks were added in April including one in the entry way to honor a major VMC volunteer and former Treasurer, Navy veteran Ted Schmid, who died suddenly late in February. His Celebration of Life will be held in May when his son Brian returns to the area.

**TREES:** It turns out there are 44 live oak memorial trees that will be planted this summer after irrigation is installed. Donors have already provided donations for 23, so many more will soon be available. Things look good to dedicate the memorial trees on Veterans Day.

**BENCHES:** One more bench was purchased in April, and we are waiting for the family to design the plates to be attached to the bench.

**PARK PROJECT:** Check out our VMC website for drone photos of the progress of construction now ahead of schedule with completion expected by 1 Nov. Ivey's began to install columns for both structures in the last week of April and people are reporting great views of the progress from our museum's periscope. Thanks, Roger, for great aerial photos!



## 2024 Class of Florida Veterans Hall of Fame

### By Donn Weaver

Since 2013 Florida has inducted veterans with outstanding military, other career and volunteer service to Florida and the 1.4 million veterans who live in our state, into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame in Tallahassee. On 7 Feb the seventh veteran from Brevard County was inducted. He is Carl Miller, Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 453 based at the VMC. He and 8 family members shared in that special moment. MG John Cleland USA, Ret and Past President of MOAACC was in the first FVHOF class of 2013. Juan Santiago, Skip Taylor and Donn Weaver (all members of the VMC) were among others from Brevard so honored in previous classes. Details of the FVHOF can be found on the website: [floridaveteranshalloffame.org](http://floridaveteranshalloffame.org)



Carl Miller, combat wounded USMC Vietnam Veteran and past teacher is honored.



# JROTC Drill Meet Shows Mid-Season Form

On a picture perfect Florida "Winter Day", almost 300 JROTC cadets from 11 High Schools in three counties came to the Veterans Memorial Center Park (VMP) to compete with heart and determination. They also saw great progress on the construction of a \$8.2 Million Amphitheater, Concession Building and many other upgrades to the VMC Park. The VMP Goal of completion by early November 2025, seems more realistic every week.

The 82 acre Park still had plenty of room for this drill meet and the 29 March JROTC State Qualifying Drill Meet. Soon thereafter the available portions on the VMP will host two huge Easter Egg hunts in April for kids of all ages.

In addition to all seven Brevard based Army JROTC Units, the Drill Meet included Satellite HS Air Force Color Guard, and three Army JROTC programs from Indian River and Orange Counties.

The events included Color Guard, Individual and dual rifle drills, armed and unarmed squad and platoon drills as well as teams comprised of all males, all females and mixed. Trophies, ribbons and individual medals were handed out to the top performers who honed their skills and experienced top flight competition in preparation for the 29 March District Championship.

The Good Deeds Foundation of MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter passed out and sponsored all trophies and awards and strong support from the VMC staff helped make for a memorable morning. Hats off to these cadets who woke up at an average of 5 am on a Saturday morning when most of their classmates were still sleeping and dreaming about Spring Break.

The event and construction earned some special "drone" coverage.



## VMC Shows Off at 14 March Boomer Bash

By Donn Weaver

Hundreds of County seniors visited the 14 March Senior Expo where, as he so often does, Harry Beaver set up our table and worked his magic on advertising our hidden gem. He reported several cash donations, and many were interested in our Plaza Brick program and in coming to our free museum. Thanks, Harry, for undertaking such missions at least a dozen times per year. Good thing the trunk has wheels.



Harry Beaver (l), our super PR man and a VMC board member, talks up the VMC along with many of our programs and plans.

# Honoring a BVMC Stalwart

By Donn Weaver



On 19 March, during a beautiful day, 15 VMC members gathered with family and friends of Navy veteran Ted Schmid as he was laid to rest at the VA Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. Ted's only living relative, son Brian, accepted the folded flag and we all heard TAPS played by the US Navy Honor Guard.

Ted served many years in the US Navy, and many loved his story about being aboard a blockade US Vessel during the October 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. Ted was skilled at his post navy work supporting the space program, and began volunteering at the VMC not long after the first building was opened in 1990. He served in many capacities over the years and was our treasurer twice during the museum expansion years when we raised \$600,000 and after, each time turning that crucial job over to Dave Clayton, another Navy submarine vet.

Brian Schmid lives in Jacksonville and plans to contact us in late April or early May when we plan to hold a Celebration of a remarkable Life.



Brian Schmid receives his father's flag



VMC President, third from right, led our delegation with Ed Pingston and Jay Longway visible in this shot with others in the area of the committal shelter. Rest in Peace, Ted.

**SPRING FLING**  
**EASTER BUNNY MEET & GREET**

**Saturday April 12, 2025**  
**11:00 am – 02:00 pm**

**VETERAN AND FIRST RESPONDER FAMILIES**

**Let our kids be kids for a day**



**Games, Prizes, Food & Drinks,  
Face Painting, Snow Cones**



**Bounce House**

At Veterans Memorial Center Park  
 400 S Sykes Creek Parkway  
 Merritt Island, FL 32952

**Food @ 11:00**



Unit 344

*Sponsored by  
Their Voice of Hope and  
American Legion Auxiliary*

RSVP/Questions:  
Dianed276@yahoo.com



*Supporting  
Women Veterans*

## Treblinka Extermination Camp and its Implications for Today

Veterans Memorial Center Library  
 Merritt Island, Florida

April 29, 2024  
 6 PM



Photo taken by Franciszek Zabęcki, Treblinka Railway Station Master, on 2 August 1943, during the Treblinka Uprising at the Treblinka Extermination Camp



## Remembering History: JROTC Cadets Say Spring Break.

by Donn Weaver

On 15 March, 227 JROTC cadets from all of the Air Force and Space Force Schools used their second day of Spring Break like no other high school students in the county or perhaps country. Cadets from Melbourne, Eau Gallie, Satellite and Space Coast High Schools walked 14 miles at Space Coast High School's athletic fields after a class on the tragic Bataan Death March of WWII. Next year the event will take place at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Amphitheater Park with a completed 3.5 km pathway.

While one cadet had to be treated for a heat injury all seemed glad that they came, but were fully exhausted and ready to begin the next day of their 10-day spring Break. One cadet shared his family story of how his great uncle perished on their infamous march after the fall of the Philippines. Check out the photos below.

Each Cadet received a special T-Shirt which marked the 27th year this remembrance has been conducted by AF/SF JROTC Units in Brevard County. BVMC and MOAACC Good Deeds Support helps make events like this happen.



## MPACT Ministries Beautifies the BVMC

by Donn Weaver

On 22 March, the BVMC was blessed to have Church of Viera's MPACT Ministries work to spruce up, trim and improve landscape and eaves/windows at the center, the plaza and the west side of the park. It looks amazing. Thanks very much to Pastor Tim and his team, as well as LTC (Ret) Tim Thomas who organized the work party.



# History Remembered: 242nd Anniversary of Special Naval Battle of Florida Coast

## By Donn Weaver

Though many in Brevard County are not aware, a crucial naval battle between two American Ships supported by a French Frigate against two British Ships, took place off the SE coast of Cape Canaveral in 1783. Every year the Brevard Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) supported by the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC) and the MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) hosts a ceremony to remember that crucial event and honor the fallen. The battle actually took place after the British surrendered at Yorktown (no internet then) but the American ships contained Spanish gold coins for crucial troop payments enroute from Mexico to New York.

This year on 15 March about 200 attended the event on a beautiful day. SAR Chapters from three states, 10 Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapters from several Florida Chapters, and the Central Florida Children of the American Revolution (with over 80 members total) were in colonial uniforms and garb, led a parade of flags and rendered honors with wreaths. Marine Corps League Det. 513 presented the colors along with color guards from the USCG Aux, the Sea Cadets and the BVMC. The XO of the Naval Riddance Test Unit (NOTU), CDR Brian Purvis, presented a moving key note address with the full history and linkages to today's Navy. The Saluting Battery of NOTU (submarine deck guns on a trailer) ended the pageantry with a 21 gun salute with Don Pearsall of the BVMC playing TAPS.

SAR President Christopher Ratzel was the MC and brought his replica 1780 working cannon. He along with SAR and VMC members organized the wreath laying too. The Lonnie and Delinda Beach Band provided the music, audio and a great rendition from a 1783 song about the Queen and her American daughters cutting the cord, dumping tea and more. Dean Schaaf, VMC President and Donn Weaver, VMC VP, brought greetings and thanks for all who attended.

The media covered the event and the entire ceremony can be seen on Space Coast Daily website by checking 2025 LNB. In all, it was quite a morning.





# 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY  


TITLE SPONSOR  
**NORTHROP GRUMMAN**  
Management Club



**APRIL 11, 2025**  
**ROCKLEDGE COUNTRY CLUB**

SCRAMBLE START 8:00AM  
PER PLAYER \$100

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT NVHS

## EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

<b>PLATINUM \$5000</b>	<b>GOLD \$2500</b>	<b>SILVER \$1000</b>	<b>BRONZE \$500</b>	<b>HOLE \$250</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gold Plus</li> <li>- Podium Time to highlight business to attendees</li> <li>- Own Banner at the Event</li> <li>- Prominent logo on event banner</li> <li>- 4 Complimentary Golf Entries (8 Total)</li> <li>- Choice of front inside or back cover for Ad</li> <li>- 4 Drink tickets (8 Total)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Silver Plus</li> <li>- Event Day Announcer Mentions</li> <li>- Post event marketing mentions (press release, social, blog)</li> <li>- 2 Complimentary Golf Entries (4 Total)</li> <li>- Full page program ad</li> <li>- 4 drink tickets</li> <li>- Preferred Seating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bronze Plus</li> <li>- Social Media Mentions</li> <li>- Vendor Tent at Event</li> <li>- 2 Complimentary Golf Entries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hole Sponsor Plus</li> <li>- Logo on event banner</li> <li>- Half page program ad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hole sign</li> <li>- Logo on event page</li> </ul>

**WIN A NEW CAR!**  
MELBOURNE




**HOLE IN ONE!**

**SIGN UP TODAY**  
[NVHS.ORG/EVENTS](http://NVHS.ORG/EVENTS)

**SEND LOGOS TO:**  
[EVENTS@NVHS.ORG](mailto:EVENTS@NVHS.ORG)

**LIFE LINE SCREENING**  
The Power of Prevention

## You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!



Where: Veterans Memorial Center  
When: Tuesday April 29, 2025

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings.

Trusted by over 10 million customers.


Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

**Who should attend: Anyone over the age of 40**

**Special Pricing for \$159**

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- Plus a FREE Hypertension Screening

**4 ways to book your appointment...**

Scan here: 

Call 888-814-0466 and use promo code: HSCA001

Visit [LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA](https://LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA)

Text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.  
Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

## SPRING FLING EASTER BUNNY MEET & GREET

**Saturday April 12, 2025**  
**11:00 am – 02:00 pm**

**VETERAN AND FIRST RESPONDER FAMILIES**

**Let our kids be kids for a day**



**Games, Prizes, Food & Drinks, Face Painting, Snow Cones**



**At Veterans Memorial Center Park**  
400 S Sykes Creek Parkway  
Merritt Island, FL 32952

**Food @ 11:00**

**Bounce House**

 **Unit 344**

Sponsored by  
**Their Voice of Hope and American Legion Auxiliary**

**RSVP/Questions:**  
[Dianed276@yahoo.com](mailto:Dianed276@yahoo.com)

*Their Voice of Hope*  
**Supporting Women Veterans**



**A TISKET...A TASKET...LET'S FILL AN EASTER BASKET**

When: Saturday, April 5, 2025 @ 9am

Where: Brevard Veterans Memorial Center 400 Sykes Creek Pkwy Merritt Island, FL 32952

Let us not forget those that are so far away from home this Easter. OASIS, in conjunction with our generous contributors, will be packing boxes to send Easter boxes to the troops currently serving in the Global War on Terror. We're accepting candy, cards, deployed military addresses and monetary donations to help with postage and package content.

If you have a loved one serving overseas or would like to contribute, please contact us at:

[www.oasisofcfl.org](http://www.oasisofcfl.org)  
OASIS  
P.O. Box 542768  
Merritt Island, FL 32954

OASIS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.  
All donations are tax deductible. All sponsors recognized.

Like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/oasisofcfl>  
Instagram: @OASISOFCFL

<b>Gift Basket</b> <a href="mailto:info@oasisofcfl.org">info@oasisofcfl.org</a> 754-960-7567 Co-Chair:	<b>Fairy Lantern</b> <a href="mailto:info@oasisofcfl.org">info@oasisofcfl.org</a> 827-600-1903 Treasurer/Secretary:	<b>Gift Basket</b> <a href="mailto:info@oasisofcfl.org">info@oasisofcfl.org</a> 313-348-8888 Fundraising Director:	<b>Gift Basket</b> <a href="mailto:info@oasisofcfl.org">info@oasisofcfl.org</a> 904-123-1417 Marketing Director:
<b>Legacy/Literature Materials</b> <a href="mailto:info@oasisofcfl.org">info@oasisofcfl.org</a> Project Coordinator:	<b>Public Involvement</b> <a href="mailto:info@oasisofcfl.org">info@oasisofcfl.org</a> Project Administrator:	<b>Gift Basket</b> <a href="mailto:info@oasisofcfl.org">info@oasisofcfl.org</a> Gift Basket:	<b>Gift Basket</b> <a href="mailto:info@oasisofcfl.org">info@oasisofcfl.org</a> Gift Basket:

# Advertise in the Courier

## RATES

Business Card: \$50 per year

Quarter Page Color: \$150 per year

Half Page Color: \$250 per year

Our emailed newsletter reaches hundreds, including vet organizations, government officials, 500 VMC members and more.

Ads are in support of the VMC, a 501(c)3 organization, and may be tax deductible. Funds will be used to improve the Courier and expand circulation in 2023 and beyond.



Old Fish House Restaurant  
249 W Cocoa Beach CSWY  
Cocoa Beach FL 32931  
Call us at (321)-799-9190

OPEN  
Tues.-Thurs. 11:30 am - 9:00 pm  
Fri. & Sat. 11:30 am - 9:30 pm  
CLOSED  
Sunday & Monday

## Seniors Who...

**Play**  
**Work**  
**Learn**  
**Travel**

**Laugh**  
**Savor**  
**Shop**  
**Create**  
**Share**  
**Garden**  
**Cook**  
**Enjoy life...**

**INSIDE:**  
Linda Mabry  
Dr. Diet  
Norman Winter  
Ouida Maturri  
Discounts  
Calendar  
Crossword Puzzle  
Recipes  
Health Articles  
Hobbies  
Events  
Dr. Ernst  
Dr. Gross  
Space Coast History

## Also read SENIOR SCENE

Seniors all around town are talking about their FREE magazine that has it all! We know how to reach them with what they want to read most, in places they frequent. That's why advertising in Senior Scene works, and why our distribution has rapidly grown to now include the Space Coast.

Also read it at [www.seniorscenemag.com](http://www.seniorscenemag.com)

**Pick up your FREE copy at the places you visit most!**





# Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar April 2025 and Beyond

Contact VMC for any additions or other information.

NOTE: Some events change in between our monthly mailing of the VMC Calendar. Keep up to date with those changes using our web link: <https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/upcoming-veterans-events/>

## APRIL

**07 Apr – 29th Annual Golf Tournament** to support the Military Affairs Council of Accelerate Brevard Chamber of Innovation (formerly CBRCC). 0730 - 1400 at Rockledge Country Club. Tee off for the Troops will include golfing, lunch, raffles, silent auctions and much more to raise funds to support the MAC programs year-round. To register, donate and get more information, check out [acceleratebrevard.org](http://acceleratebrevard.org)

**11 Apr – 4th Annual Golf Tournament** Hosted by National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS) and sponsored by Northrup Grumman Management Club. Rockledge Country Club 0800- 1300 with Scramble Start. Proceeds Support NVHS 2025 Missions. Prizes and sponsorships are available. \$100 per player registration fee. Win a New Car with a Hole in One. Sign up to play or sponsor at: [nvhs.org/events](http://nvhs.org/events)

**11 Apr – 2025 Shrimp Feast 1800-2200** at Port Canaveral Cruise Terminal 5 (8445 Rowland Dr. Port Canaveral). Cost is \$50 for early birds through 17 March at \$60 afterwards. No tickets at the door. Have fun and support our Propeller Club of Port Canaveral Maritime Education Programs. Cocktails, Shrimp Dinner, Door Prizes, Live. Auction and Dancing. Email [propellerclubcanaveral@gmail.com](mailto:propellerclubcanaveral@gmail.com) to register and for more information out call 321-698-5269. Also See web site: [www.spacecoastshrimpeast.com](http://www.spacecoastshrimpeast.com)

**12 Apr – Spring Fling Easter Bunny Meet & Greet** at Veterans Memorial Center Park – West Entrance 1100-1400. For veteran families and all their children featuring games, bounce houser, plenty of food and drinks, and lots of eggs hidden by the Easter Bunny. Sponsored by American Legion 344 AUX and Their Voices of Hope Supporting Women Veterans. Parking in the Mall close to Fortenberry Dr, not at the VMC buildings due to East area Park construction. RSVP/ Questions contact [diane276@yahoo.com](mailto:diane276@yahoo.com)

**29 Apr – Scouting America Central Florida Council** Golden Eagle Dinner at Florida Tech Conference Center 150 W. University Blvd Melbourne, 1800-2100. Fundraising Dinner and Auction to support our youth involved in scouting, many of which are also in JROTC or other Cadet Programs. Donate

or sign up at [www.cflscouting.org](http://www.cflscouting.org) event site.

**29 Apr - BVMC Library Discussion Series 1800-1930 VMC Library.** Sandy Straus presents her moving research on the “Treblinka Nazi Death Camp and Its Implications for Today”. Original maps and research will be shared and questions and discussion welcome. Please join this very special event at this time in history – Past and Present. Ms. Straus is a PhD Engineer who works in our Space Program. She had relatives at Treblinka. Contact Paul Julian of VMC for more information.

## MAY

**04 May – Back Brevard Hero Fest VMC Plaza 1000-1600.** Entertainment, food, food trucks, music, special events for kids and much more all to honor our county first responders, many of whom are also military veterans. More Details in April.

**08-11 May – 37th Veterans Memorial Reunion**, Wickham Park 0900-1800 daily. Formerly Vietnam Veterans of Brevard Vietnam Reunion. It is now hosted by a new organization – Veterans Memorial Reunion, Inc (VMRI) a 501c3. The Wreath laying Ceremony on Monday 05 May 1600-1900. Check the web site below to register. Vietnam and Global War on Terror Some Gave all walls included. Escort and wall construction on Sunday 04 May from EFSC to Wickham Park. Vendor registration required and more info at [www.veteransmemorialreunioninc.org](http://www.veteransmemorialreunioninc.org). Note: Wreath laying registration available on the website in mid- April.

BECOME A BOOSTER TODAY and help defray the cost of producing our newsletter.  
Only \$10.00 per name, per year.



## Boosters

Adair, Mark and Karen Croft, IMO  
MSGT Edmond Adair, USAF, RET Aug, 2027

Bateman, Skip & Ruth July, 2026

Bisset, M Doug Sept, 2025

Carleton, Jim March, 2026

Clayton, David & Anne July, 2026

Ericson, Robert & Robin Mar 2026

Fadok, Eleanor Dec, 2025

Fleet Reserve Branch 263 July, 2026

Florida State University College of Social  
Work, August, 2025

Garcia, Jackie & Danny June, 2025

Huffman, Kenneth and Lois Jan, 2026

Kanis, Jussara & Michael Nov, 2027

Kappes, Bea (RIP) & Mickey July, 2025

Longway, J.P & Donna Dec, 2028

McKinney, Shaun & Adora Sept, 2025

Muckler, Bill, CAPT. USMC May, 2028

Norm & Sharyn Desmarais Mar, 2026

Norman, Ray April, 2027

Rowe, Wayne June, 2025

Schaaf, Dean & Susan July, 2025

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If you feel your name is missing and that you paid for Booster sponsorship this year, please contact the Treasurer. Thank you for your forbearance and understanding. Fill in your names and send to the BVC along with your check.

Please make your check payable to: Brevard Veterans Council (Boosters).

Single Name per year- \$10.00 / Double Names - \$20.00

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_